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HOUSE RESOLUTION 71  
By Todd

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate Joel Wilhite, on his receipt of the Award of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Joel Wilhite, a History, Geography, and Anthropology Instructor at Millington Central High School, is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilhite has recently been presented with the Award of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching from the Tennessee Humanities Council, an honor most befitting his work as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive influence he has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, He is one of only eight Tennessee elementary and secondary teachers who have been recognized for their excellence in teaching the humanities by receipt of this

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prestigious award; each recipient will receive a generous fellowship of \$1,500 to use for professional development, and another \$1,500 to use to purchase humanities materials or programs at his or her school; and

WHEREAS, A distinguished scholar, Joel Wilhite attended the University of Louisiana-Monroe from 1985-1987 and, in 1990, received a Bachelor of Arts from Louisiana Tech University, where he majored in History and minored in French; at Florida State University, he earned a Master of Arts degree in East European Studies in 1991 and an Educational Specialist degree in Social Sciences and Education in 1992; he received his Alternative Teacher Certification, in 1994, from the University of Louisiana-Monroe; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilhite began his illustrious teaching career in 1995, serving as Itinerant Special Education Instructor with the Union Parish School System; and

WHEREAS, The Award of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching is not his first honor; he was awarded a scholarship from the government of France to study the French Language at the Centre de Linguistique Appliquee in Besancon, France, and he has received the Army Corps of Engineers Outstanding Teacher Award; and

WHEREAS, An active and conscientious educator, Joel Wilhite has been a valuable member of many programs and organizations during his illustrious tenure at Millington Central High School (MCHS), including serving as a Shelby County Education Association Representative, MCHS Technology Committee Member, Co-Chair of the MCHS Social Studies Department, MCHS Student Government Sponsor, Distance Learning Teacher for Shelby County Schools, and as a four-year member of the MCHS Faculty Advisory Committee, which he led for one term as Chairman; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable educator has also participated in the University of Memphis's West Tennessee Geography Project; Japan in the Schools: Urban Teachers in the South Program; the National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar in France; the East Asian History and Culture Seminar, which was sponsored by National Consortium for Teaching about

Asia and the East Asian Curriculum Project of Columbia University; and the West Africa Fulbright Group Projects Abroad Study Tour of Ghana and Guinea; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilhite is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, He truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel is highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Joel Wilhite epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest precepts of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and congratulate Joel Wilhite on his receipt of the Award of Recognition for Outstanding Teacher of the Year from the Tennessee Humanities Council, commend his exceptional service to the young people of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence as a teacher at Millington Central High School, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.